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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/025,156	12/18/2001	David E. Fredericksen	13477	5773

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ILLINOIS TOOL WORKS

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EXAMINER

PARKER, FREDERICK JOHN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1762

DATE MAILED: 05/14/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Art Unit: 1762

Response to Proposed After-Final Amendment

1. The Examiner has carefully considered Applicants' amendments and remarks. The amendment to state "heating to cure" rather than simply "curing" does not distinguish over Leach which clearly states elevating the temperature of the coated article for curing. Thus, the Examiner will enter the amendment, noting on the record this limitation is also present in the prior art of record.

The Examiner is confused by Applicants' argument that the powder melting and flowing out on the heated article means Leach "contemplates" initially heating above the cross-linking temperature. Cross-linking meaning attaching/ bridging of polymeric chains, and thereby would cause solidification or at least a REDUCTION in flow due to the polymerization of the individual polymeric units, which is entirely contrary to the spirit of the teachings of the reference. Thus, Applicants' argument actually *supports* the Examiner's position that preheating occurs below the curing temperature to ensure that substantially no cross-linking occurs to impede melting and flowing of the polymer powder across the substrate. Cross-linking only occurs at the second heating where the initiation of cross-linking and curing is stated and intended to occur, see Leach col. 2, 14-19. Thus, Applicants' argument is not convincing and the Examiner maintains that claims 1-21 are obvious in view of the prior art rejections of the previous Office Action.

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2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fred J. Parker whose telephone number is (703) 308-3474.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fred J. Parker', written over a horizontal line.

Fred J. Parker

May 12, 2003

af10-025156

**FRED J. PARKER
PRIMARY EXAMINER**